

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF SOUTH DAKOTA
SOUTHERN DIVISION

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

CR19-40003-01

Plaintiff,

FACTUAL BASIS STATEMENT

vs.

JUSTIN ROBERT CHRISTENSEN,

Defendant.

The Defendant states that the following facts are true, and the parties agree that they establish a factual basis for the offense to which the Defendant is pleading guilty pursuant to Fed. R. Crim. P. 11(b)(3):

My name is Justin Robert Christensen.

Beginning on an unknown date and continuing until approximately February 5, 2019, I, along with at least one other person, reached an agreement or came to an understanding to distribute 500 grams or more of a mixture or substance containing methamphetamine in the District of South Dakota.

I voluntarily and intentionally joined in the agreement or understanding to distribute methamphetamine.

At the time I joined in the agreement or understanding to distribute methamphetamine, I knew the purpose of the agreement or understanding.

While I was actively involved in furthering the purpose of the agreement or understanding, I could foresee that the quantity of methamphetamine

involved in the agreement or understanding exceeded 500 grams of methamphetamine.

As part of my involvement in the conspiracy, I used the Dark Web to purchase methamphetamine and had it mailed to me in South Dakota. I distributed the methamphetamine to co-conspirators, who then sold it to drug customers in South Dakota and elsewhere. I knew that my co-conspirators were redistributing the methamphetamine based on conversations we had.

From an unknown date and continuing until on or about November 7, 2018, I, along with at least one other person, reached an agreement or came to an understanding to conduct financial transactions affecting interstate and foreign commerce by depositing proceeds from the conspiracy to distribute 500 grams or more of a mixture or substance containing methamphetamine into my bank accounts. I knew that these transactions were designed in whole and in part to conceal and disguise the nature, location, source, ownership, and control of the proceeds of the methamphetamine conspiracy, and that while conducting these financial transactions, I knew that the cash involved in these transactions were the proceeds from the methamphetamine conspiracy.

A co-conspirator and I deposited the cash proceeds from the methamphetamine sales into accounts in South Dakota banks and would then purchase Bitcoin through a Coinbase account. This was done in whole or in part to conceal or disguise the control of the proceeds, and so that I could use the proceeds to purchase additional controlled substances, including

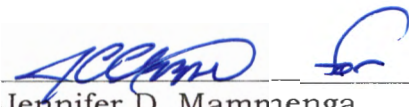
methamphetamine, through the Dark Web, all in violation of 18 U.S.C. §§ 1956(a)(1)(B)(i) and (h).

Additionally, on August 5, 2013, I was convicted of manufacturing a controlled substance in the Second Judicial Circuit Court, Minnehaha County, South Dakota.

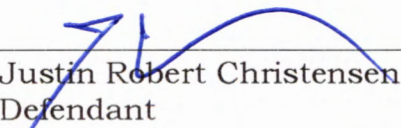
The parties submit that the foregoing statement of facts is not intended to be a complete description of the offense or the Defendant's involvement in it. Instead, the statement is offered for the limited purpose of satisfying the requirements of Fed. R. Crim. P. 11(b)(3). The parties understand that additional information relevant to sentencing, including additional drug quantities, may be developed and attributed to the Defendant for sentencing purposes.

RONALD A. PARSONS, JR.
United States Attorney

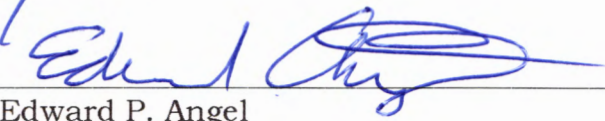
September 10, 2019
Date


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9-9-19
Date


Justin Robert Christensen
Defendant

9 Sep 2019
Date


Edward P. Angel
Attorney for Defendant

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF SOUTH DAKOTA
SOUTHERN DIVISION

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

CR19-40003-01

Plaintiff,

PLEA AGREEMENT

vs.

JUSTIN ROBERT CHRISTENSEN,

Defendant.

The Defendant, the Defendant's attorney, and the United States Attorney for the District of South Dakota hereby submit the following Plea Agreement to the United States District Court, which Agreement was reached pursuant to discussions between the United States Attorney and the Defendant's attorney. The Agreement is as follows:

A. ACKNOWLEDGMENT AND WAIVER OF RIGHTS AND UNDERSTANDING OF MAXIMUM PENALTIES: The Defendant agrees that he has been fully advised of his statutory and constitutional rights herein, and that he has been informed of the charges and allegations against him and the penalty therefor, and that he understands same. The Defendant further agrees that he understands that by entering a plea of guilty as set forth hereafter, he will be waiving certain statutory and constitutional rights to which he is otherwise entitled.

B. PLEA AGREEMENT PROCEDURE – NO RIGHT TO WITHDRAW PLEA IF COURT REJECTS RECOMMENDATION: The United States and the

Defendant agree that this Plea Agreement is presented to the Court pursuant to Rule 11(c)(1)(B) of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure, which authorizes the United States to agree that it will recommend, or agree not to oppose, the Defendant's request that a particular sentence or sentencing range is appropriate or that a particular provision of the Sentencing Guidelines, or policy statement, or sentencing factor, does or does not apply. Such agreements and recommendations are not binding on the Court, and the Defendant may not withdraw his plea of guilty if the Court rejects them.

C. PLEA OF GUILTY TO CHARGES AND DISMISSAL OF OTHER CHARGE: The Defendant will plead guilty to Count 1 of the Second Superseding Indictment filed in this case, which charges the violation of 21 U.S.C. §§ 841(a)(1) and 846. The charge carries a mandatory minimum sentence of 15 years in prison and a maximum sentence of life in prison, a \$20 million fine, or both, and a term of supervised release. The term of supervised release in this case is a minimum of 10 years and a maximum of life. If the Defendant is found by a preponderance of evidence to have violated a condition of supervised release, he may be incarcerated for an additional term of up to 5 years on any such revocation and placed on additional supervised release for any term up to life. There is a \$100 assessment to the victims' assistance fund.

The Defendant will also plead guilty to Count 3 of the Second Superseding Indictment filed in this case, which charges the violation of 18 U.S.C. §§ 1956(a)(1)(B)(i) and (h). The charge carries a maximum sentence of 20 years in prison, a \$500,000 fine or twice the value of the property involved in the

transaction, whichever is greater, or both imprisonment and a fine, and a period of supervised release of up to 3 years. If the Defendant is found by a preponderance of evidence to have violated a condition of supervised release, he may be incarcerated for an additional term of up to 2 years on any such revocation. There is a \$100 assessment to the victims' assistance fund.

A civil penalty may also be imposed of not more than the greater of the value of the property, funds, or monetary instruments involved in the transaction, or \$10,000.

Upon acceptance of the plea by the Court and the imposition of sentence, this section shall be treated as a motion to dismiss Count 2 of the Second Superseding Indictment.

D. VIOLATION OF TERMS AND CONDITIONS: The Defendant acknowledges and understands that if he violates the terms of this Plea Agreement, engages in any further criminal activity, or fails to appear for sentencing, this Plea Agreement shall become voidable at the discretion of the United States and the Defendant will face the following consequences:

(1) All testimony and other information the Defendant has provided at any time to attorneys, employees, or law enforcement officers of the United States, to the Court, or to the federal grand jury may and will be used against him in any prosecution or proceeding.

(2) The United States will be entitled to reinstate previously dismissed charges and/or pursue additional charges against the Defendant, and to use any

information obtained directly or indirectly from him in those additional prosecutions.

(3) The United States will be released from any obligations, agreements, or restrictions imposed upon it under this Plea Agreement.

E. ACCEPTANCE OF RESPONSIBILITY: The United States agrees that based upon the information known to it at this time, the Defendant is entitled to a two-level decrease in his offense level pursuant to U.S.S.G. § 3E1.1(a), provided no evidence is disclosed in the presentence report which indicates the Defendant has not demonstrated a recognition and affirmative acceptance of personal responsibility for his criminal conduct, and further provided he: (1) complies with the terms of this Plea Agreement; (2) testifies truthfully during the change of plea hearing; (3) participates truthfully with the Probation Office in the presentence investigation; (4) does not violate any conditions of pretrial detention or release after he signs this agreement; and (5) continues to exhibit conduct consistent with acceptance of responsibility. Both the United States and the Defendant otherwise reserve the right to present evidence and make argument regarding sentencing.

F. TIMELY ACCEPTANCE OF RESPONSIBILITY: The United States agrees that the Defendant has timely notified authorities of his intention to enter a plea of guilty thereby permitting the United States and the Court to allocate their resources efficiently. Therefore, if the offense level determined prior to the operation of U.S.S.G. § 3E1.1(a) is level 16 or greater and the Defendant qualifies for a two-level decrease under U.S.S.G. § 3E1.1(a), this provision shall be treated

at the sentencing hearing as a motion pursuant to U.S.S.G. § 3E1.1(b) to decrease the offense level by one additional level.

G. GOVERNMENT'S RECOMMENDATION REGARDING SENTENCE-ANY SENTENCE WITHIN STATUTORY LIMITS: At the sentencing hearing, both the United States and the Defendant are free to recommend whatever sentence each feels is appropriate, within statutory limits, present evidence, and make arguments in support thereof. The Defendant understands that any recommendation made by him or the United States is not binding on the Court. The Defendant further understands that he may not withdraw his plea of guilty if the Court rejects any recommendation.

H. SPECIAL ASSESSMENT: The Defendant agrees to remit to the U.S. Clerk of Court, 400 S. Phillips Ave., Sioux Falls, SD 57104, no later than two weeks prior to sentencing, a certified or cashier's check payable to the "U.S. Clerk of Court" in the amount of \$200, in full satisfaction of the statutory costs pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3013.

I. MONETARY OBLIGATIONS - DEFENDANT'S ONGOING DUTY: The Defendant agrees, if requested by the United States, to promptly return an executed Authorization to Release Financial Records and Documents, an executed Authorization to Release Tax Returns and Attachments, current earnings statements, copies of his W-2s and an executed Financial Statement. The Defendant understands that this is an ongoing duty which begins upon execution of this plea agreement and continues until such time as payment of any financial obligation is remitted in full.

The Defendant agrees to assist the United States in identifying, locating, returning, and transferring assets for use in payment of any financial obligations imposed as part of the sentence in this case. The Defendant expressly authorizes the United States Attorney's Office to obtain credit reports on him prior to judgment.

The Defendant also agrees that if he is incarcerated, he will participate in the Bureau of Prisons' Inmate Financial Responsibility Program during any period of incarceration in order to pay any financial obligations ordered by the Court. The Defendant's agreement to participate in the Inmate Financial Responsibility Program does not limit the United States' right to pursue collection from other available sources. If there is no period of incarceration ordered, the Defendant agrees that payment of any financial obligations ordered by the Court shall be a condition of probation.

J. PRIOR CONVICTION FOR FELONY DRUG OFFENSE: The United States will file an Information and Notice of Intent to Seek Increased Punishment Based Upon Prior Conviction pursuant to 21 U.S.C. § 851(a). Said Information refers to a judgment filed in the Second Judicial Circuit Court, Minnehaha County, South Dakota, on or about August 5, 2013, for manufacturing a controlled substance. The mandatory minimum and potential maximum sentence as a result of this filing are set forth in Section C of this agreement. The Defendant agrees that he was convicted of this offense and further agrees not to challenge the enhanced penalty based on this prior conviction. If the Defendant executes this Plea Agreement, the United States agrees that it will not

amend said Information or file a superseding Information to include any other felony drug convictions.

K. AGREEMENT TO FORFEIT PROPERTY: The Defendant agrees to forfeit to the United States pursuant to 21 U.S.C. § 853, any right, title, and interest he may have in any property constituting, and derived from, any proceeds obtained, directly or indirectly, as the result of such offense and any property used, and intended to be used, in any manner or part, to commit, and to facilitate the commission of, the offense, including, but not limited to, the following:

- (1) Century Arms International, model RAS47, 7.62x39mm Russian caliber, semi-automatic AKM pattern rifle, bearing serial number RAS47082608;
- (2) Maadi Company, model RPM, 7.62x39mm Russian caliber, semi-automatic AKM pattern rifle, bearing serial number CT00988;
- (3) Remington Arms Company Incorporated, model 870 Express Super Magnum, 12 gauge, pump-action shotgun, bearing serial number D494784A;
- (4) Unknown manufacturer, unknown model, 12 gauge, double-barrel shotgun, bearing possible serial number B9476;
- (5) Remington Arms Company Incorporated, model 870 Wingmaster, 12 gauge, pump-action shotgun, with an obliterated serial number; and
- (6) Beretta USA Corporation, model BU9 Nano, 9x19mm Luger caliber, semi-automatic pistol, bearing serial number NU149743

(hereinafter referred to as “the property”). The Defendant agrees to hold the United States, its agents, and employees harmless from any claims whatsoever in connection with the seizure or forfeiture of the property.

The Defendant further agrees to waive all interest in the property in any administrative or judicial forfeiture proceeding, whether criminal or civil, state or federal. The Defendant agrees to consent to the entry of orders of forfeiture for the property and waives the requirements of Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure 32.2 and 43(a) regarding notice of the forfeiture in the charging instrument, announcement of the forfeiture at sentencing, and incorporation of the forfeiture in the judgment. The Defendant acknowledges that he understands that the forfeiture of the property is part of the sentence that may be imposed in this case and waives any failure by the Court to advise him of this, pursuant to Rule 11(b)(1)(J), at the time his guilty plea is accepted.

The Defendant further agrees to waive all constitutional and statutory challenges in any manner (including direct appeal, habeas corpus, or any other means) to any forfeiture carried out in accordance with this Plea Agreement on any grounds, including that the forfeiture constitutes an excessive fine or punishment. The Defendant agrees to take all steps necessary to pass clear title to the property to the United States, including, but not limited to, surrender of title, the signing of a consent decree, stipulating to facts regarding the transfer and basis for the forfeiture, executing deed or title transfers, and signing any other documents necessary to effectuate such transfers.

L. BASIS FOR PLEA OF GUILTY: The Defendant agrees that the statement of facts, signed by the parties and incorporated herein by this reference, provides the basis for his guilty plea in this case, and is a true and accurate statement of his actions or omissions with regard to the charges to

which he is entering a plea, and that the Court may rely thereon in determining the basis for his plea of guilty as provided for in this Plea Agreement.

M. WAIVER OF SPEEDY TRIAL: The Defendant agrees to waive any rights to a speedy trial under either the United States constitution or the Speedy Trial Act. This waiver is necessary so that the Court will have the benefit of all relevant information at sentencing.

N. PARTIES BOUND: It is further understood and agreed that this agreement is limited to the United States Attorney's Office for the District of South Dakota, and that this agreement cannot and does not bind other federal, state, or local prosecuting authorities.

O. SCOPE OF AGREEMENT: This agreement shall include any attachments, exhibits or supplements designated by the parties. It is further understood and agreed that no additional promises, agreements, or conditions have been entered into other than those set forth in this agreement, and this agreement supersedes any earlier or other understanding or agreement.

P. WAIVER OF DEFENSES AND APPEAL RIGHTS: The Defendant hereby waives all defenses and his right to appeal any non-jurisdictional issues. The parties agree that excluded from this waiver is the Defendant's right to appeal any decision by the Court to depart upward pursuant to the sentencing guidelines as well as the length of his sentence for a determination of its substantive reasonableness should the Court impose an upward departure or an upward variance pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3553(a).

SUPPLEMENT TO PLEA AGREEMENT


The United States will file a Supplement to Plea Agreement which is required to be filed in every case in compliance with the Court's Standing Order.

RONALD A. PARSONS, JR.
United States Attorney

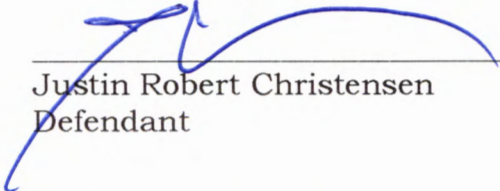
September 10, 2019
Date


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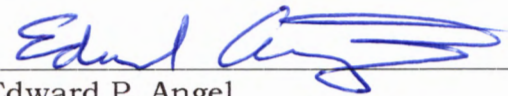
APPROVED:
RONALD A. PARSONS, JR.
United States Attorney
By:


DENNIS R. HOLMES
Chief, Criminal Division

9-9-19
Date


Justin Robert Christensen
Defendant

9 Sep 2019
Date


Edward P. Angel
Attorney for Defendant